



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION BUSINESS LINE

In reply refer to: T-DITT-2

August 28, 2003

### **To: People Interested in the Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has started construction on the Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project. This letter provides an update on construction activities and includes project contact information.

#### **Background**

BPA is constructing a new nine-mile transmission line parallel to an existing BPA transmission line in central King County, Wash. Five miles of the line crosses the Cedar River Municipal Watershed (CRMW), which is the source for much of the City of Seattle's drinking water. The new line will accommodate electrical growth and ensure electrical reliability in the Puget Sound area. BPA and the City of Seattle reached agreement on constructing this line through the CRMW in July and have been working with a third party environmental consultant to closely monitor construction activities to ensure CRMW protection.

#### **Construction Activities**

Construction started in July and is scheduled to be complete in December 2003. BPA is taking every measure to avoid or minimize potential environmental impacts. Environmental mitigation measures are in place in areas where construction is occurring. Ongoing construction activities include: placement of environmental controls (such as silt fences, bio-bags, water monitoring equipment, drop cloths under equipment, portable toilets at each construction area, power washing of equipment, marking of wetland areas), road construction, brush and tree clearing along the new right of way including helicopter removal of trees, creating wildlife habitat with limbs and trees that have been cut, installation of tower footings and legs and assembly of the tower steel.

Construction of the transmission line and the expansion of Echo Lake Substation are on schedule. All ground-disturbing activities within the watershed are scheduled to be completed by October 1, before the heavy rain season begins.

BPA had planned to use micropiles, a new tower footing method, in the CRMW to minimize impacts. After two micropile holes were completed it became apparent that the ground disturbance created by the equipment was greater than it would have been using conventional footings.

BPA decided, with agreement from the City of Seattle and the third-party environmental consultant, to use conventional footings in the CRMW to reduce ground disturbance. This decision was made in consultation with the Washington Department of Health, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries.

BPA's construction goals for this project are to minimize disturbance to the natural environment during construction, have no impact to drinking water quality, enhance overall fish and wildlife habitat, and improve electrical reliability in the Puget Sound region.

**For More Information**

If you need more information about the project, please call toll-free 1-888-276-7790. Project information is also at: [www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission\\_Projects/](http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/PlanProj/Transmission_Projects/).

Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Lou Driessen  
Project Manager